

Greyhound Injury Recovery Schemes (AWP002)

Updated: 8 June 2022 (Version 6.0)

Policy Background

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) is committed to ensuring that euthanasia of greyhounds, where not indicated for medical or behavioural reasons, is prevented. As such, a framework to enable financial contribution towards the surgical repair and rehabilitation of serious injuries that may occur in greyhounds has been established, the particulars of which are outlined in the following policy.

The Policy

RWWA will commit to providing financial support to participants for injuries that occur during a race, qualifying trial or public trial (GISR only) and are defined as eligible under the attached schedule of injuries.

The policy has two pathways through which the Greyhound Injury Recovery Schemes can be accessed;

1. Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme (GIFRS) – under this scheme the ownership of the greyhound is transferred to RWWA’s Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program. The injured greyhound is triaged on-track and is then transported to a RWWA nominated emergency care veterinary facility, where all associated costs of surgery and rehabilitation are covered under this scheme. Following the rehabilitation period, the greyhound will then progress through GAP’s standard processes.

[Greyhounds injured at public trials are ineligible to access the GIFRS scheme.](#)

2. Greyhound Injury Surgery Rebate (GISR) - under this scheme the person responsible for the greyhound retains custodianship and must present the greyhound to a veterinary clinic for assessment and surgery in accordance with the directions issued by the on-track veterinarian. Under this scheme RWWA will refund 100% of surgery costs and reasonable associated costs (e.g., bandaging, prescribed medication), up to **\$5,500** exclusive of GST per eligible injury (if GST registered). RWWA will also contribute \$50 per week towards the rehabilitation of the greyhound for the duration of the rehabilitation plan prescribed by the veterinarian up to a maximum period of 13 weeks.

In this pathway, following surgery and an appropriate rehabilitation period, if the owner of the greyhound does not wish to keep that greyhound as a pet or privately rehome it, it will be granted priority entry into the GAP program. Entry to GAP will be conditional upon a sound health check from a veterinarian.

[Greyhounds injured at public trials may be eligible for application to this scheme.](#)

If the owner of the greyhound decides that the greyhound will return to racing, any financial rebate received through this policy must be repaid in full prior to the greyhound being considered eligible for re-instatement to race. Further a veterinary report from the relevant surgeon who performed the surgery, stating that the greyhound has fully recovered and is suitable to race again, must be provided to the Stewards and the greyhound must successfully complete a satisfactory trial before being eligible for a clearance to race.

Application of the Policy – 1. Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme (GIFRS)

Incident Assessment

Where an injury that is eligible under this policy occurs, the on-track veterinarian, in the presence of a Steward where practicable, will provide advice to the person responsible for the greyhound as to the nature of the suspected injury within the limitations of the examination that can be performed at the time and likely outcomes as a result of veterinary intervention and the prospects for a sound recovery.

Upon the decision to transfer the greyhound's ownership to RWWA's GAP program the greyhound will be stabilised for transport. The greyhound's representative will complete and sign the Transfer of Ownership Document (GIFRS) (AWF019) on behalf of the owner. The on-track veterinarian completes the Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Form 'Form B' (AWF003). The greyhound will then be transported by the OTV assistant to the RWWA nominated veterinary clinic.

The managing owner of the greyhound will be required to make a co-contribution to the scheme of \$250.

Reversal of eligibility to GIFRS

Where further diagnostic examination of the greyhound by the RWWA nominated veterinary clinic reveals that the injury sustained is not eligible under the GIFRS, or does not require surgery, the representative for the greyhound will be advised and the greyhound will be returned to their care. Subsequently, the person responsible for the greyhound will resume all financial and care arrangements for the greyhound.

Application of the Policy – 2. Greyhound Injury Surgery Rebate (GISR)

Incident Assessment – Race Meetings and Qualifying Trials

Where an injury that is eligible under this policy occurs, the on-track veterinarian, in the presence of a Steward where practicable, will provide advice to the person responsible for the greyhound as to the nature of the suspected injury within the limitations of the examination that can be performed at the time and likely outcomes as a result of veterinary intervention and the prospects for a sound recovery. 'Form A' (AWF002) is to be completed by the OTV and the person responsible for greyhound.

The on-track veterinarian will provide the appropriate veterinary care to ensure the wellbeing of the greyhound and direct the person responsible for the greyhound to seek off course veterinary assessment and treatment.

Any advice as to the eligibility for a surgery rebate shall be preliminary only and subject to further confirmation of the injury after off course veterinary diagnostic examination.

Any responsibility as to the treatment or otherwise of the greyhound remains at all times with the representative of the greyhound.

Incident Assessment – Public Trials

Upon the suspicion of an injury that is eligible under this policy occurring at Public Trials, an incident report is to be documented by the person responsible for the greyhound and the venue's Trial

Supervisor on 'Form C' (AWF017). The greyhound must be transported to the custodian nominated veterinary clinic for immediate assessment to maintain eligibility to access the scheme.

A copy of Page 1 from 'Form C' (AWF017), completed by the venue's Trial Supervisor, must be received by RWWA Stewards within two (2) business days of the incident, with the remainder of the documentation to be submitted by the person responsible for the greyhound when making their application.

The diagnosis and subsequent surgery (where indicated) by the custodian nominated veterinarian must meet the eligibility criteria for a claim to be considered.

Post-Surgery

Following surgery, the owner will be responsible for a minimum period of care for the recovering greyhound prior to it being afforded priority entry into GAP – subject to a passed pre-assessment. It is expected that this period would be a minimum of four (4) weeks, subject to the nature of the injury, or any other such rehabilitation period as directed by the veterinarian performing the surgery.

The RWWA contribution towards the rehabilitation will be paid on receipt of 'Form D' (AWF034) when veterinary clearance is received or 13 weeks after surgery (whatever period is lessor).

Financial Contribution

RWWA will refund 100% of surgery costs and reasonable associated costs (e.g. bandaging, prescribed medication), up to **\$5,500** exclusive of GST per incident (if GST registered). RWWA will contribute \$50 per week towards the rehabilitation of the greyhound for the duration of the rehabilitation plan prescribed by the veterinarian up to a maximum period of 13 weeks.

To be eligible for rebate under this scheme, the injury must be both eligible (anatomically) and deemed as requiring orthopaedic surgical management following off course assessment. Trainers will not be able to claim any rebate (including for triage or diagnostics) for injuries deemed ineligible on further veterinary investigation.

Only where the extent of an eligible injury is confirmed on x-ray, by a Veterinarian to be at a level of severity that prevents the intended surgery, will RWWA also refund 100% of the initial diagnostic consultation and associated costs (e.g. bandaging, prescribed medication, x-ray's etc. not including any euthanasia costs if that is performed by any Veterinarian).

Following completion of the surgery *or as otherwise may arise as outlined* and subject to evidence of payment, participants can apply for reimbursement of costs using the official RWWA form within the set timeframes.

Applications Deemed not to be covered under This Policy

If an injury to a greyhound is deemed not to be covered under this policy, participants have the right to dispute that decision. Any dispute of that decision must be made in writing setting out the basis by which the greyhound is eligible for consideration by the Stewards in consultation with the RWWA Veterinarian(s).

Any decisions in this regard will be final.

Greyhound Injury Recovery Scheme – Table of Injury Eligibility

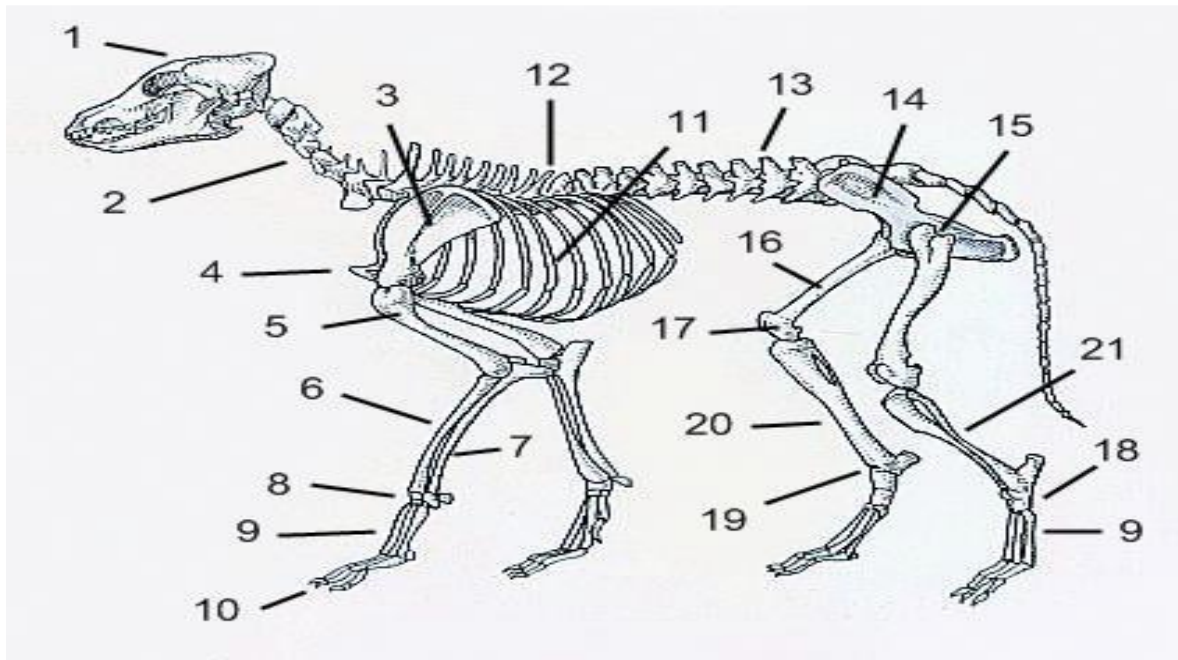


Table 1: Injuries included in the GIFRS and GISR schemes

GIFRS	GISR
<p>Fractures requiring surgery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 – Humerus 6 – Radius 7 – Ulna 16 – Femur 18/19 – Tarsus (Hock) 20 - Tibia 	<p>Fractures or injuries requiring surgery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 - Scapula 5 – Humerus 6 – Radius 7 – Ulna 8 – Carpus 9 – Metacarpals/Metatarsals 16 – Femur 18/19 – Tarsus (Hock) 20 - Tibia 17- Stifle 21 – Fibula <p>Serious lacerations requiring emergency surgery Tendon and ligament injuries requiring surgery</p>

Table 2: Injuries not included in the GIFRS and GISR schemes

GIFRS	GISR
<p>Fractures of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Cranium 2 - Vertebrae (Cervical) 3 – Scapula 4 – Sternum (Breast Bone) 8 – Carpus 9 – Metacarpals/Metatarsals 	<p>Fractures of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Cranium 2 – Vertebrae (Cervical) 4 – Sternum (Breast Bone) 10 – Phalanges (Toes) 11 – Thorax (Ribcage) 12 – Thoracic Vertebrae

10 – Phalanges (Toes) 11 – Thorax (Ribcage) 12 – Thoracic vertebrae 13 – Lumbar vertebrae 14 – Pelvis 17 – Patella (knee cap) 21 – Fibula Lacerations, tendon injuries, joint or ligament sprains, muscle injuries	13 – Lumbar Vertebrae 14 – Pelvis Minor lacerations Tendon and ligament injuries not requiring surgery Muscle injuries
--	--

Related Documents

- AWF002 – Form A - Greyhound Injury Surgery Rebate (GISR) Application Form
- AWF003 – Form B – Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme (GIFRS) Hospital Admission Form
- AWF017 – Form C – Greyhound Injury Surgery Rebate (GISR) Public Trials – Application Form
- AWF019 – Transfer of Ownership and Adoption Notification + Retirement Notice (R 22) – GIFRS